in fireworks industry in Sivakasi. It has been reported that 1,25,000 children were still being exploited despite the provisions in the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. These children work under the risk of Asthma, T.B., Uterine damage besides a general shortening of life span. It has also been reported that to camouflage the illegal implications of the employment of children, the factories have emergency exit which are used for escape during inspections.

(c) and (d) Employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in certain occupations and processes (including the manufacturing of matches, explosive and fire-works) under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. The employment conditions of children in other occupations and process is regulated under the Act. All the State/UT Governments have enforcement machineries to enforce child related provisions of the laws. Employers found employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are prosecuted under the provisions of the Act. The Central Government monitors implementation of the provisions of the Act through periodical returns.

The employment of children is also prohibited under section 67 of Factories Act, 1948. As regards enforcement of provisions of this Act, the State Government of Tamil Nadu has deployed 10 Field Inspectors who have been conducting regular inspections. During 1999, 1340 regular inspections, 231 special inspections, 21 night inspections, 39 check inspections, 27 squad inspections and 52 holiday inspections have been done. The State government has also reported strict vigilance and enforcement by the Inspectorate of factories in Sivakasi.

Elimination of Child Labour

353. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the basic facilities and infrastructure required to eliminate Child Labour in the country is still lagging behind;

(b) if so, whether Government have received foreign assistance to eliminate Child Labour in the country during the past few years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which that foreign assistance has been spent; and

(d) to what extent Child Labour have been eliminated in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LAL): (a) The Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual, progressive and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate Child Labour. So far 85 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned for the child labour endemic districts of the country for the rehabilitation of child labour.

(b) to (d) India has been participating in the ILO's International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). The long term objective of IPEC is to contribute to the effective abolition of child labour. Under the programme, funds were provided directly by the ILO/area Office to NGOs. Voluntary organisations and other organisations after approval of the action programme by the National Steering Committee, IPEC. The Action Programme covers area such as institutional development, programme development, awareness raising, rehabilitation and education. Under the IPEC, a total 154 action programmes on child labour have been taken up for coverage of more than 90,000 children. The total assistance provided under IPEC is US$ 55,01,403/- for the period 1992—1999.

Child Labour is a deep rooted socio-economic problem which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time. A beginning has been made by the Government. No definite time frame can be worked out for complete elimination of child labour.

Provision of CCS (Recognition of Service Association) Rules, 1992-93

†354. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision under C.C.S. (Recognition of Service Association) Rules, 1992-93 to suspend from the membership of the employees association as also their right to hold any office as office bearer and also the continuance of the suspended employees in employees association; and

(b) if so, the details of the provisions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) There is no provision under CCS (RSA) Rules, 1993 to debar employees under suspension to be member or office bearer of the relevant service association. However, their participation in the JCM is subject to the satisfaction of the Chairman of the relevant Council.

Accumulation of Disproportionate Wealth by Managers of Cooperative Stores

355. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that managers in the Super Bazar, National Consumer Cooperative Federation of India Ltd. and the Kendriya Bhandar have accumulated wealth disproportionate to their known sources of income;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.